

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/650,722	HOSHI, SHOICHI	
	Examiner Jeffrey Sharp	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 4/28/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 11.
3. The drawings filed on 23 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a fax from Manabu Kanesaka on 12 May 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A connector for fastening a member with an attaching hole, comprising: a female part having a head portion, a leg portion connected to the head portion, an inner space formed in the leg portion and opened at the head portion, and an engaging projection formed as a tab on an outer surface of the leg portion by a surrounding cutout portion, said engaging projection having a first strength to elastically bend inwardly to engage the attaching hole when the leg portion is inserted into the attaching hole, and a male part having a pressing head portion, an inserting leg connected to the pressing head portion to be inserted into the inner space of the female part, a first engaging portion formed on an outer surface of the inserting leg at forward end thereof for engaging an inner wall of the female part so that the male part is temporarily fixed to the female part at a temporary engaging state, [[and]] a second engaging portion including a projection on the outer surface of the inserting leg at a base end thereof to project outwardly therefrom, and an empty space for allowing the projection of the second engaging portion to bend elastically inwardly, said second engaging portion, when the male part is

completely inserted into the female part from the temporary engaging state to a complete engaging state, being **[[disposed in]] inwardly bent and elastically engaged with** the inner wall of the female part to permanently fix the connector to the attaching hole, said second engaging portion having a second strength greater than the first strength so that when male part in the temporary engaging state with the female part is pushed to engage said member, the engaging projection with the first strength is deformed first to engage said member and then the second engaging portion bends and enters the inner space,

wherein **said inserting leg flushly abuts the engaging projection of the female part to prevent the engaging projection from bending inwardly in the complete engaging state, and**
[[said leg portion of the female part includes a cutout portion to form the engaging projection,]] said first engaging portion **[[being]] is** located in the cutout portion in **both** the temporary and complete engaging states.

2. (currently amended) A connector as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said inserting leg has a length so that in the temporary engaging state, the inserting leg is located above the engaging projection to allow the engaging projection to bend inwardly~~[], and when the male part is completely inserted into the female part, the inserting leg is located flushly adjacent to the engaging projection of the female part to prevent the engaging projection from bending inwardly]].~~

5. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10 (new) A connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said female part further includes a rib on the leg portion to project outwardly therefrom, said second engaging portion being located radially adjacent to the rib in the complete engaging state with the leg portion interposed therebetween.

11. (new) A connector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said male part further includes a pair of grooves to sandwich the second engaging portion therebetween to allow the second engaging portion to easily bend inwardly.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As amended by the examiner, claim 1 no longer lies within an anticipatory or obvious realm of the prior art. The engaging projection (20,22) taught by Meyer US-5,775,860 is not "formed as a tab" by a "surrounding cutout portion". Further, Morel US-4,276,806 teaches a first engaging portion (4) within a cutout portion (12) in both a temporary and complete engaging state. However, no combination of the prior art of record would fairly suggest the second engaging portion "inwardly bent and elastically engaged with the inner wall" and "prevent[ing] the engaging projection from bending inwardly in the complete engaging state".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Sharp whose telephone number is (571) 272-7074. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 am - 4:00 pm Mon-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAS


5/16/05


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER